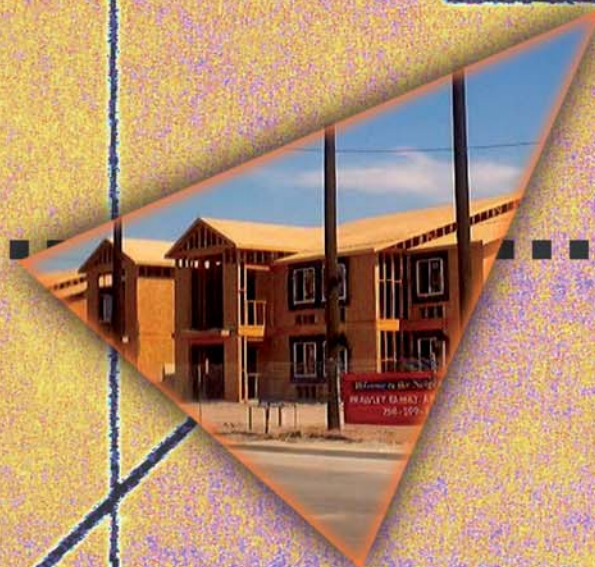


Southern California

Association of Governments

2003 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Adopted by the
Regional Council
January 9, 2003



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

Leadership

Vision

Progress

Leadership, **vision** and **progress** which promote economic growth, personal well-being, and livable communities for all Southern Californians.

The Association will accomplish this Mission by:

- Developing long-range regional plans and strategies that provide for efficient movement of people, goods and information; enhance economic growth and international trade; and improve the environment and quality of life.
- Providing quality information services and analysis for the region.
- Using an inclusive decision-making process that resolves conflicts and encourages trust.
- Creating an educational and work environment that cultivates creativity, initiative, and opportunity.

Funding: The preparation of this report was financed in part through grants from the United States Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration – under provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Additional financial assistance was provided by the California State Department of Transportation.

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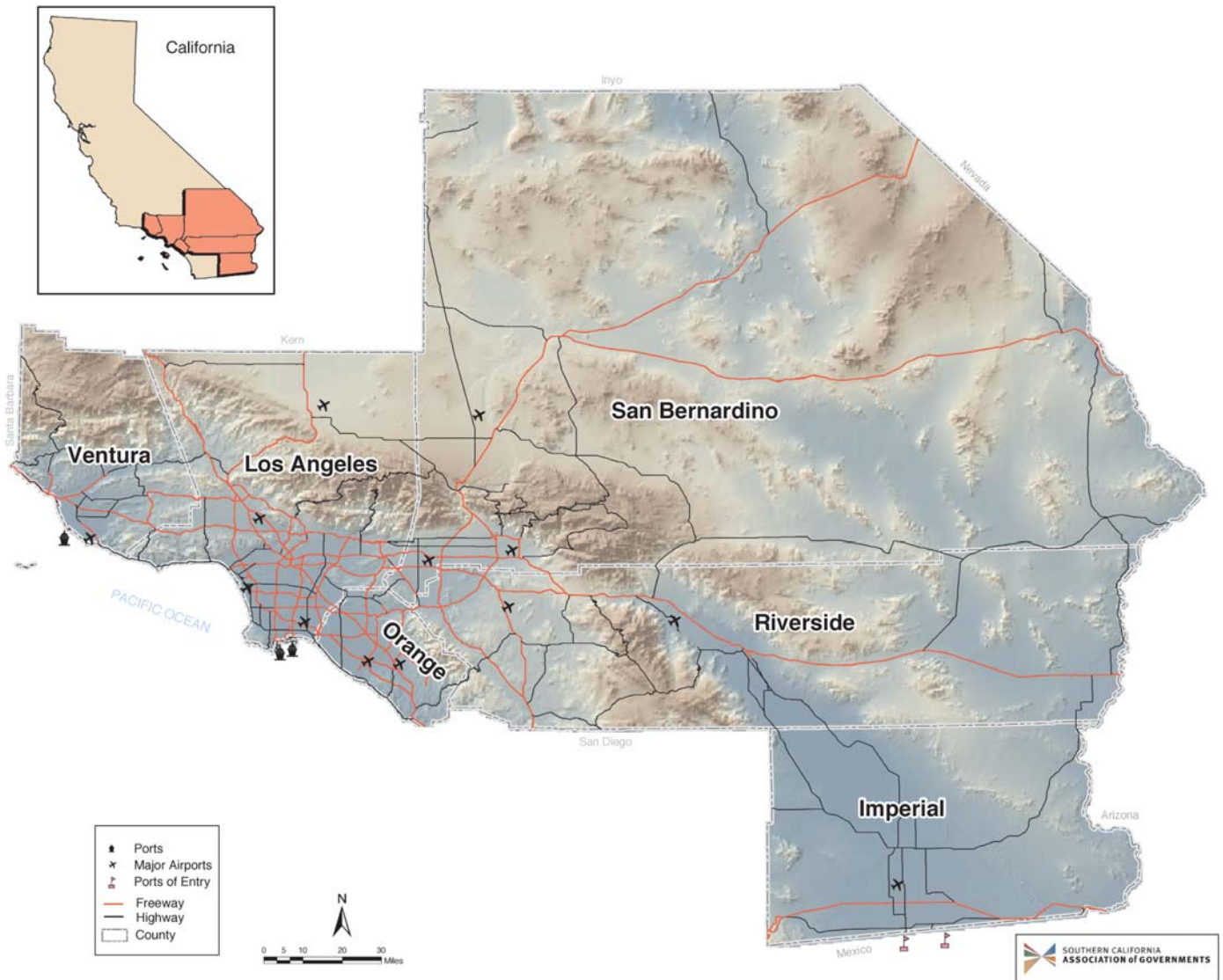
RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION: Robin Lowe, Hemet

VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION: Bill Davis, Simi Valley

Rev. 1/16/03

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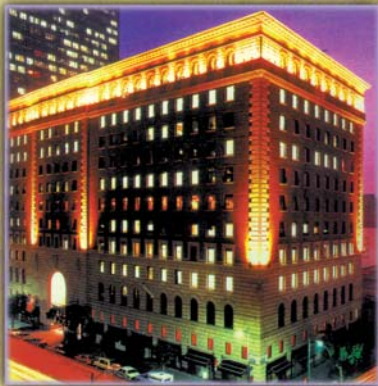
THE SCAG REGION



SCAG is made up of six Counties which are divided into 14 subregions.

INTRODUCTION

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2003 Legislative Program reflects priorities established by the Regional Council through the Leadership Initiative and the recently adopted Ten Year Strategic Plan. The program identifies a broad range of federal and state legislative goals and objectives for SCAG to pursue in the coming year. SCAG's legislative staff operates under direction of the legislative program, which is approved annually by the Regional Council.



In implementing the 2003 Legislative Program, SCAG's legislative staff continues to streamline the process and integrate SCAG's legislative relations efforts with internal departments, task forces and committees. Because of these efforts SCAG has gained recognition and influence in a number of policy arenas, including transportation and housing.

During 2002, SCAG made a significant impact on federal legislative issues affecting transportation through a Regional Transportation Forum with United States Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald. The forum focused on the authorization of the Transportation Equity

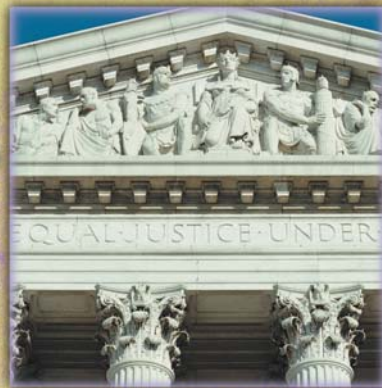
Act (TEA-3). During 2003, SCAG will continue to lead advocacy efforts for the region in the reauthorization process. In Sacramento, SCAG played a leadership role in efforts to reform the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process as part of housing element reform legislation. SCAG was also heavily involved in aviation and solid waste conversion issues.

During 2003, SCAG legislative staff will continue to enhance relationships with federal and state legislators, regulators, subregions and other agencies within the SCAG region.

Legislative Program OBJECTIVES

SCAG's 2003 Legislative Program:

- Provides regional leadership in seeking federal and state funding for plans and programs to implement SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as adopted in April 2001.
- Refines and enhances SCAG's federal designation as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and for other statutory mandates.
- Maintains SCAG's status as a state designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA).
- Provides regional leadership seeking and supporting fair share federal and state funding for plans and programs within the SCAG region.
- Provides regional, state and national leadership in the development of regional priority projects for consideration under the authorization of the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-3).
- Leads advocacy efforts in the advancement of priority projects and reauthorization principles.



Legislative Program DESCRIPTION

Legislative staff will undertake the following general activities at the federal and state levels during 2003:

- Identify and track legislation consistent with the objectives contained within the 2003 SCAG Legislative Program. Key legislation will be presented to appropriate SCAG policy committees for adoption of formal positions and recommendations to be forwarded to the Regional Council.
- Prepare correspondence and communications consistent with Regional Council positions.
- Coordinate appearances of Regional Council Members before federal and state legislative committees.
- Coordinate lobbying visits to Washington, DC and Sacramento for Regional Council Members and staff to meet with appropriate executive and legislative branch elected officials and staff regarding initiatives contained in the legislative program.
- Host legislative briefings in Sacramento and Washington, DC with elected officials and their staffs on SCAG's legislative priorities and initiatives.



Legislative Program **ADVOCACY**

Federal and State Contract Legislative Advocates:

- SCAG employs the services of contract lobbyists in Washington, DC and Sacramento.
- All contact with the federal and state lobbyists is coordinated through the Manager of Government and Public Affairs.
- The lobbyists work with SCAG staff in implementing the Legislative Program and coordinating visits to Washington, DC or Sacramento by members of the Regional Council to meet with elected and appointed officials of the executive and legislative branches of the federal and state government.
- The budget for Government Affairs advocacy activities is provided through General Fund revenues. Federal law prohibits the use of federal funds for lobbying purposes.
- Retainers and expenses for both the federal and state legislative advocates are contained within the SCAG FY 2002/03 budget adopted by the Regional Council.

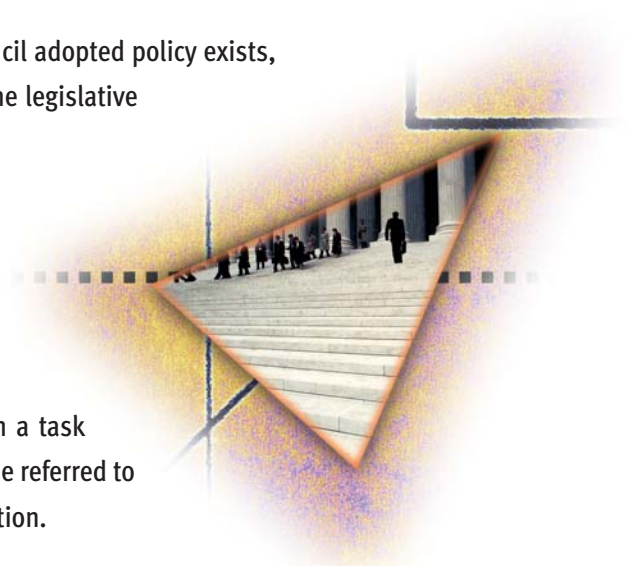
Legislative Program POLICY REVIEW AND ACTION

SCAG's legislative staff operates under direction of the legislative program, which is approved annually by the Regional Council. The Regional Council establishes SCAG's official policy position on all legislative or regulatory matters in which SCAG is involved.

Position statements on legislation and other matters for which Regional Council policy already exists is communicated by SCAG Government Affairs staff to legislators, legislative staff, administrative staff and other entities reflecting that adopted policy.

For those legislative matters in which no Regional Council adopted policy exists, bills or other legislative matters are brought through the legislative process as outlined below:

- Bills or other legislative matters are first presented to the appropriate task force(s), technical committee(s) or policy committee(s).
- Those bills or legislative matters first heard in a task force or other technical committee are then to be referred to the appropriate policy committee for further action.
- After a policy committee has taken action on a legislative issue, the matter is brought to the Regional Council for adoption of a formal position.
- Legislation may be referred and re-referred to multiple task forces or committees depending upon the subject matter, by request of a task force or committee and to resolve any differences in task force or committee actions.
- If there is a need to take action within a specific time frame because of constraints of the federal or state legislative calendars, legislative matters may be brought to the Regional Council in the same month the issue is considered by a policy committee. The chairperson of the appropriate policy committee presents the request to expedite action of the Regional Council.

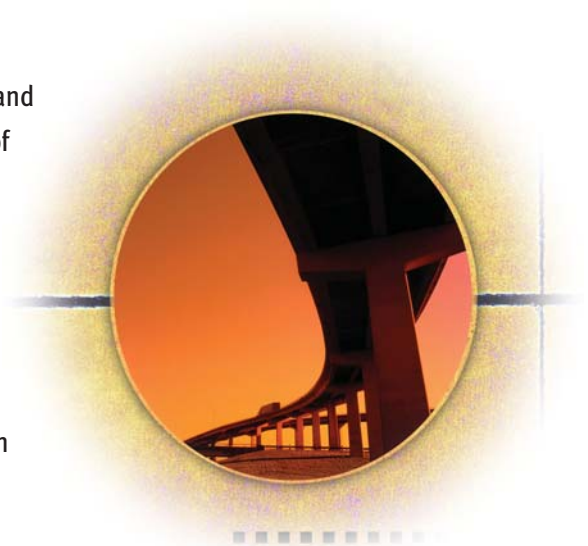


- Legislative matters may be referred directly to the Regional Council because of (1) their critical nature, or (2) the need to take action within a specific time frame due to constraints of the federal or state legislative calendars.
- Regional Council Members and other interested parties desiring Regional Council action on bills or legislative matters not directly contained within the adopted 2003 Legislative Program must consult with Government Affairs staff prior to submitting requests to the chairperson of the Administration Committee.
- If the Administration Committee approves the request, the legislative staff then prepares the necessary agenda reports for a subsequent policy committee meeting. To ensure that SCAG legislative resources are available and apportioned in a manner consistent with the organization's priorities, the Administration Committee is responsible for determining a course of action on all requests for legislative matters that are not included in the adopted 2003 SCAG Legislative Program.

In 2003, SCAG's legislative staff's primary focus is the authorization of the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-3). SCAG will continue its efforts to ensure the region is effectively represented in the authorization process. SCAG will support efforts that maintain and promote the fair and equitable distribution of state transportation funding to cities and counties. Because of the state general fund deficit that could affect transportation funding, SCAG's efforts to maintain and generate transportation funding will be critical at the state level.

TEA III

- Continue discussions with appropriate federal, state and local agencies and interest groups for the advancement of principles, priority projects and programs for inclusion in the authorization of the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-3).
- Initiate discussions with Members of Congress, administration officials and appropriate interest groups to promote inclusion of SCAG principles and priority projects in the authorization of Transportation Equity Act (TEA-3).



Appropriations

- Seek FY 2004 appropriation for truck lane implementation.
- Support legislation that provides funding for projects along the Alameda Corridor and Alameda Corridor East in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.
- Support earmarks or discretionary funding applications of other jurisdictions within the SCAG region consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and SCAG policies.
- Work with the 710 Gap Closure Task Force to secure funding and approval for completion of I-710, consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan.

Maglev

- Seek FY 2004 appropriation to continue predeployment planning and environmental review for California MAGLEV Deployment Program.
- Initiate discussions with Members of Congress, administration officials and other organizations, to include funding for the California MAGLEV Deployment Program in the authorization of the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-3).
- Work with consultants to keep SCAG's congressional delegation apprised of the initial operating segment and other study areas within the California MAGLEV Deployment Program.
- Work with consultants to keep SCAG's congressional delegation apprised of state level high speed rail corridor studies affecting the region.



Southwest Compact

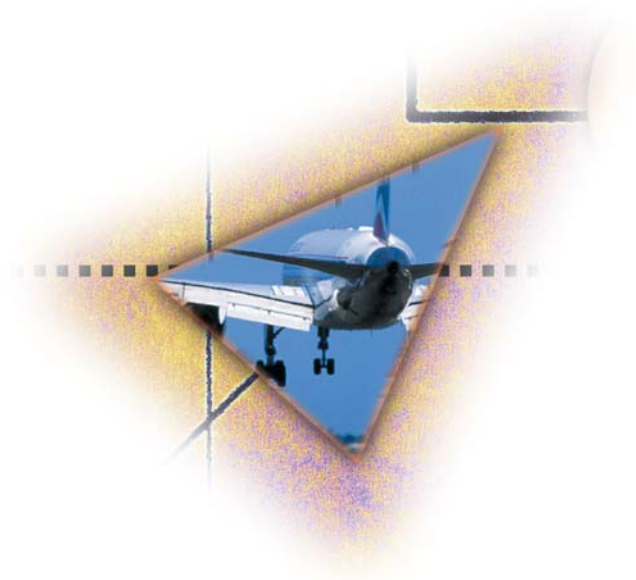
- Building on the idea of a Southwest Passage, advance concepts and secure support for the Southwest Compact with representatives of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Develop and implement a strategy to promote partnership to Members of Congress and administration officials.
- Monitor and support federal legislation related to the creation of a Southwest Compact Authority, whose primary mission is to develop plans and programs that result in increased economic development opportunities along Southwest border communities.

Aviation

- Conduct briefings for members of Congress, administration officials and members of the California Legislature regarding SCAG's aviation activities designed to promote and implement a decentralized aviation system.

Transportation Financing

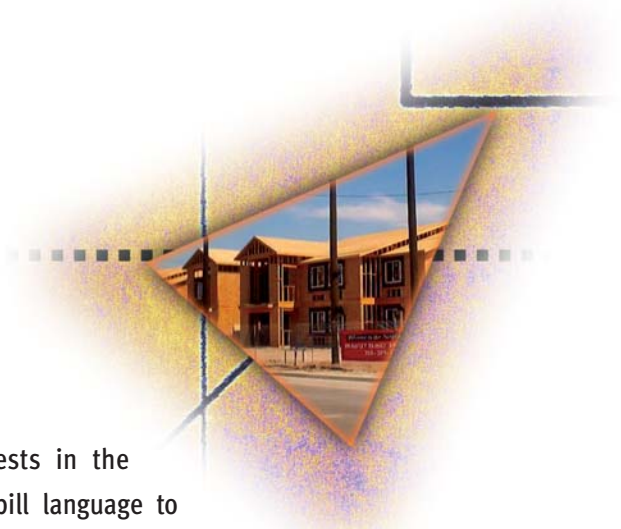
- Develop a package of revenue mechanisms and strategies to finance major regional projects and seek legislation enabling SCAG to employ these mechanisms to fund projects contained in the Regional Transportation Plan and other infrastructure plans.
- Develop and support legislative proposals to increase transportation funding through innovative financing concepts such as user fees and sales tax on motor vehicle fuels.



Legislative Issues HOUSING AND LAND USE

In 2002, SCAG was active in the passage of Senate Bill 1227 (Burton), which placed Proposition 46, "The Housing & Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Bond Act of 2002", on the November 2002 statewide ballot. Proposition 46, approved by voters in November 2002, finances \$2.1 billion in affordable housing construction through a state bond. SCAG was also a key agency on the issue of housing element reform, participating in a statewide working group to develop a consensus on the issue. In 2003, SCAG legislative staff will continue efforts in these and other specified areas:

- Seek necessary funding to fulfill Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) mandate.
- Work with the SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development (CEHD) Committee to develop legislative proposals relating to promoting an increase in and the equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout the region.
- Continue discussions with stakeholder interests in the region and throughout the state to develop bill language to reform the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process as part of housing element reform legislation.
- Monitor and participate in legislative activities related to jobs-housing balance including, but not limited to, growth policies, construction defect litigation and water availability.



During the 2001-2002 legislative session, SCAG's legislative efforts in energy and the environment focused on solid waste conversion technologies. SCAG co-sponsored AB 1952 (Bogh) to eliminate the ten-percent cap on diversion credits for biomass conversion. AB 1952 was succeeded by AB 2770 (Matthews) and amended by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in a manner that discouraged, rather than promoted, conversion technologies. Further amendments removed objections to the bill, but did nothing to eliminate the ten-percent cap. The ability to earn full diversion credits for conversion remains the top Energy and Environment goal of the 2003 Legislative Program.

Solid Waste

- Support legislation that removes any impediments to transformation or conversion technologies relative to solid waste.
- Track California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) regulatory action including issues regarding specific types of waste, alternative daily cover, and markets for recyclable materials.



Water

- Track amendments to Clean Water Act, particularly in the area of point and non-point source pollution.
- Track state legislation, regulatory action and pending litigation regarding the implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads.
- Monitor developments in the implementation of the California 4.4 Plan, which reduces California's take from the Colorado River to 4.4 million acre-feet per year.

Energy

- Encourage state efforts to develop energy goals and coordinate local initiatives to provide reliable, secure and safe energy at the lowest possible cost.
- Track energy legislation relating to the formation, aggregation, and siting of utilities, energy efficient building standards, and renewable energy resources.

Air Quality

- Monitor air quality conformity issues in the SCAG region.



SCAG will work with federal funding partners to restructure its annual federal comprehensive planning grant, the primary source of funding for its federally mandated regional planning programs, to take advantage of the flexibility of the portion of the grant made available from the Federal Transit Administration. It will also pursue legislation to phase out the cap on Transportation Development Act funds.

- Seek change in Consolidated Planning Grant allocation process from a cost reimbursement program to an advance payment program.
- The Regional Council, in collaboration with the County Transportation Commissions, will seek legislation to phase out the statutory cap on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues available to SCAG to an amount consistent with the organization's roles and responsibilities that support the development of regional mass transportation services.



SCAG MANAGEMENT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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